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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 8 AUG. 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	May '86	Jun. '86
Labor Force	256,595	262,026
Employment	232,653	237,689
Unemployment	23,942	24,337
Rate (Raw)	9.3	9.3
Rate (S.A.)	9.1	9.5
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.13	$14.35
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.2	41.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.3	7.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.43	$12.51
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.7	42.1
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	326.3	327.9
Denver (Bimonthly)	356.3	
Year Change (U.S.)	+1.6	+1.7

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of **Trends** *be sure to see these articles*

- Illiteracy—The Most Formidable Barrier to Employment - Part Three
- Wyoming's Personal Income Up 0.1 Percent
- Wyoming's Federal Civilian Employment by Occupation

THE NATIONAL SCENE

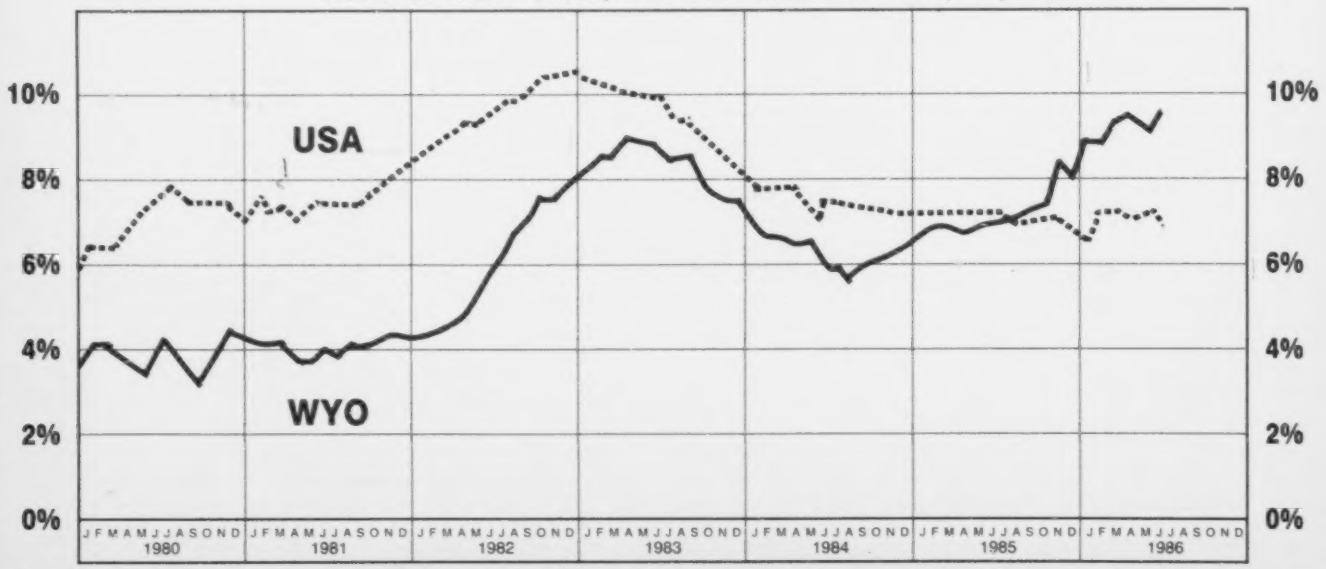
In June, 8.4 million were unemployed in the U.S., down 111,000 from May. The civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, stood at 7.1 percent, down from both May and the June 1985 rate of 7.3 percent. The rate through the first half of 1986 has averaged 7.1 percent. Down just slightly from the 7.2 percent average recorded in 1985.

Unemployment in the U.S. has been on the downturn since December of 1982, the end of the 1981 - 1982 national recession, when the unemployment rate was 10.8 percent.

In June, the lowest unemployment, 5.4 percent, continued to be held by white men and women 20 years of age and over. The highest rate, 40.2 percent, was held by black youth 16 - 19 years of age.

The average duration of unemployment in the U.S. during June was 15.2 weeks, about the same as the 15.5 weeks experienced in June, 1985.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

IN WYOMING

June's unemployment rate in Wyoming remained at 9.3 percent, unchanged from May, reflecting the stubborn refusal of the state's economy to show improvement. The state's jobless rate has been kept high by the large number of workers who continue to be laid off and the resulting claims for unemployment insurance. Normally in June, the unemployment rate will decline slightly from previous months. Wyoming's unemployment rate ranks sixth highest in the nation, tied with Texas.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up from 9.1 percent in May to 9.5 percent in June, and was well above the June, 1985 rate of 6.9 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate nationally in June was pegged at 7.1 percent.

Statewide, the June labor force was up from May by about 5,400 workers, to just over 262,000, compared to the June, 1985 total of 269,300—a decline of nearly three percent. The employed labor force, meanwhile, fell by a staggering 13,500 workers over-the-year, and over the same period the number of unemployed increased by more than 6,200.

Year-to-year labor force declines were felt in 16 of the state's counties, while modest growth was experienced in the others. Lincoln and Sublette counties had the largest rates of growth and Laramie and Lincoln counties had the largest numerical gains in labor force.

Big Horn County had the highest rate of unemployment, 14.0 percent, followed by Converse County with 13.3 percent. The county with the largest number of unemployment continues to be Natrona, with more than 4,200 and an unemployment rate of 12.0 percent. Teton and Albany counties had the lowest unemployment rates, with 3.8 and 5.1 percent, respectively.

A notable gain in employment was made in construction, particularly heavy construction, but mining, oil and gas extraction, oilfield services, retail trade, and transportation continue to be the industrial sectors most hurt by Wyoming's economic doldrums.

ILLITERACY - THE MOST FORMIDABLE BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT

(This is part three of a three-part series on Illiteracy from the National Governors' Association Labor Notes)

A study conducted during the fall of 1984 concluded that only a majority of state commissions set up to further the national "excellence in education" are focusing on the problems of at-risk youth who may make up as much as one-third of all high school students. The study stemmed from reports issued by national education commissions indicating that education in the public schools was failing to do the job needed to keep the nation in the forefront. A number of advocacy groups concerned with at-risk youth expressed concern that these national commissions had ignored this body of students in their recommendations. However, they discovered the nation is losing 25 percent of all students entering the ninth grade before they graduate; this body of students consists of a high percentage of minority students; and that it is from these potentially wasted human resources that we can expect an increase in dependency and a drag on the economy.

Between now and the end of the century, new technology, stiff international competition, changes in consumer tastes, and demographic shifts will cause pervasive mismatches between workplace needs and workforce capabilities. The next 10-15 years threaten cohorts or our working age youth and adults will lack the education and skills to obtain even their entry level job. At the same time, most of those working today will need to enhance, if not acquire, totally new skills to remain employed.

Working is one of the most important learning experiences of adolescent years. It helps teenagers acquire self-esteem and the skills and habits they need to become productive and responsible adults. The fact that many youths do not have this opportunity is now viewed as a serious problem.

According to the study, a new employment policy is needed that encompasses traditional public training programs as well as our public education systems, training provided by both the private sector and labor, economic development programs, the labor exchange (employment service) system and income maintenance systems, including unemployment insurance and welfare.

WYOMING'S PERSONAL INCOME UP 0.1 PERCENT

The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that for the first quarter of 1986 Wyoming had an increase in nonfarm personal income of 0.1 percent, ranking it 49th in the nation. Only Alaska, which saw a decline of 9.0 percent, ranked lower.

Wyoming's payroll declined in both durables and nondurables manufacturing, mining, and private service-type industries and increased at rates below the national average in construction and state and local government. Wyoming's decline in durables manufacturing payrolls was the second largest in the nation, and its decline in private service-type payrolls was the largest. Wyoming's decline in mining payrolls reflected weakness in the oil and gas industry.

The Rocky Mountain region increased 1.4 percent in the first quarter, 0.1 percentage point less than the nation. The increase in nonfarm personal income was less than the national average in Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah, and more than the national average in Montana and Colorado.

Personal Income is the income received by persons from all sources, that is, from participation in production, from government and business transfer payments, and from government interest. Personal income is the sum of private and government wage and salary disbursement, other labor income, farm and nonfarm proprietor's income, rental income of persons, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments, less personal contributions for social insurance. Personal income is measured before the deduction of personal income taxes and other personal taxes and is reported in current dollars. Nonfarm income is defined as total personal income less farm labor and proprietor's income.

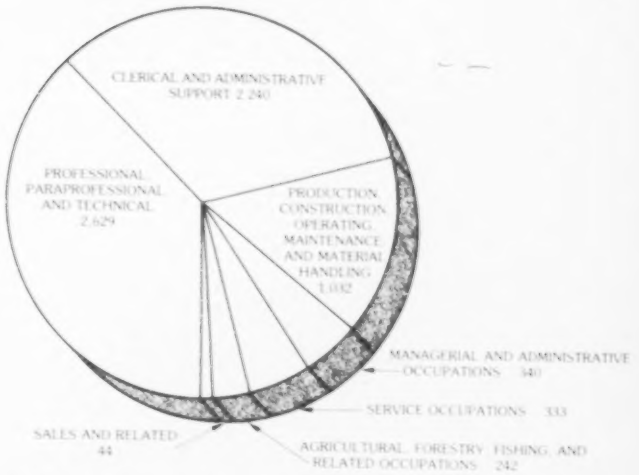
WYOMING'S FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

As of October, 1984, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that Wyoming has 6,860 Federal Government employees. The accompanying pie chart shows the vast majority of these employees are working in either professional, paraprofessional, and technical occupations or clerical and administrative support occupations.

The top five occupations based on employment in Federal Civillian Government are shown below.

1. Traffic, Shipping, and Receiving Clerks 358
2. Mail Carriers, Postal Service 335
3. Foresters and Conservation Scientists 258
4. Typists 189
5. Postmasters and Mail Superintendents 181

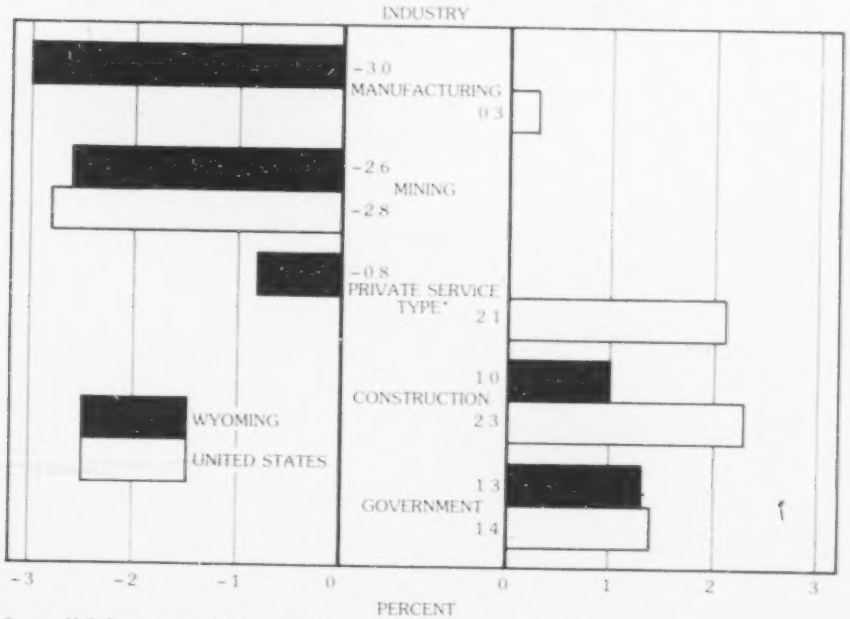
WYOMING
FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT
BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS
1984


CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT 2,240
PROFESSIONAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL, AND TECHNICAL 2,629
PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATING, MAINTENANCE AND MATERIAL HANDLING 1,032
MANAGERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OCCUPATIONS 340
SERVICE OCCUPATIONS 333
AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, FISHING, AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS 242
SALES AND RELATED 44

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, July, 1986

NONFARM PERSONAL INCOME PERCENT CHANGE BY INDUSTRY

4th Quarter 1985 - 1st Quarter 1986



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, July, 1986
*Wholesale and Retail Trade, The Finance-Insurance-Real Estate Group, The Transportation-Communication-Public Utilities Group, and Services

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
June 1986	327.9	309.5	361.2	273.9	204.5	308.6	432.0
Annual % Change	1.7	2.7	3.1	3.4	0.0	- 4.1	7.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUN 1986 [1]	MAY 1986 [1]	JUN 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	262,026	256,595	269,277	2.1	- 2.7
Unemployment	24,337	23,942	18,092	1.6	34.5
Employed Labor Force	237,689	232,653	251,185	2.2	- 5.4
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	201,100	193,400	200,167	4.0	0.5
b. Agriculture[3]	14,245	10,522	14,508	35.4	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	9.3% 9.5%*	9.3% 9.1%*	6.7% 6.9%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.3% 7.1%*	7.0% 7.3%*	7.5% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.8%	4.2%	2.0%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 595.53	$ 582.16	$ 590.48	2.3	0.9
Average Weekly Hours	41.5	41.2	44.0	0.7	- 5.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.35	$ 14.13	$ 13.42	1.6	6.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	35,325	37,182	17,832	- 5.0	98.1
a. Initial	3,539	3,983	2,089	- 11.1	69.4
Weeks Compensated	29,559	34,466	14,867	- 14.2	98.8
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 4,838,378	$ 5,554,582	$ 2,194,575	- 12.9	120.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 163.31	$ 160.86	$ 146.93	1.5	11.1
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	5,859	4,943	4,738	18.5	23.7
Non-Ag. Openings Received	4,135	4,212	4,820	- 1.8	- 14.2
Non-Ag. Placements	3,914	2,692	4,303	45.4	- 9.0
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 526.67	$ 518.33	$ 525.27	1.6	0.3
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	41.7	43.7	1.0	- 3.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.51	$ 12.43	$ 12.02	0.6	4.1
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	327.9	326.3	322.3	0.5	1.7
Producer Prices, All Commodities	298.9	299.2	309.2	- 0.1	- 3.3
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	309.5	309.4	301.4	0.0	2.7

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUN 1986	MAY 1986	JUN 1985	%CHANGE MAY-JUN	%CHANGE JUN-JUN	JUN 1986	MAY 1986	JUN 1985	JUN 1986	MAY 1986	JUN 1985
Statewide	262,026	256,595	269,277	2.1	- 2.7	24,337	23,942	18,092	9.3	9.3	6.7
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.5	9.1	6.9
Albany	15,683	15,738	16,364	- 0.3	- 4.2	802	868	674	5.1	5.5	4.1
Big Horn	5,070	5,004	5,295	1.3	- 4.2	710	707	460	14.0	14.1	8.7
Campbell	20,206	20,046	19,910	0.8	1.5	2,184	2,047	1,325	10.8	10.2	6.7
Carbon	8,554	8,324	9,293	2.8	- 8.0	926	1,908	706	10.8	10.9	7.6
Converse	6,640	6,547	6,938	1.4	- 4.3	882	824	632	13.3	12.6	9.1
Crook	3,245	3,021	3,364	7.4	- 3.5	257	228	140	7.9	7.6	4.2
Fremont	16,344	16,859	17,527	- 3.1	- 6.7	2,105	2,114	1,896	12.9	12.5	10.8
Goshen	6,169	6,240	6,678	- 1.1	- 7.6	366	375	374	5.9	6.0	5.6
Hot Springs	2,945	3,025	3,197	- 2.6	- 7.9	317	281	178	10.8	9.3	5.6
Johnson	3,451	3,215	3,857	7.3	- 10.5	306	316	224	8.9	9.8	5.8
Laramie	35,940	35,620	35,409	0.9	1.5	2,145	2,012	2,125	6.0	5.6	6.0
Lincoln	9,771	9,464	9,323	3.2	4.8	957	1,888	609	9.8	9.4	6.5
Natrona	35,209	35,765	37,915	- 1.6	- 7.1	4,208	4,188	2,866	12.0	11.7	7.6
Niobrara	1,740	1,728	1,908	0.7	- 8.8	153	183	135	8.8	10.6	7.1
Park	15,944	14,199	15,696	12.3	1.6	1,514	1,472	858	9.5	10.4	5.5
Platte	3,661	3,779	3,951	- 3.1	- 7.3	332	306	317	9.1	8.1	8.0
Sheridan	12,868	13,239	13,743	- 2.8	- 6.4	957	1,006	968	7.4	7.6	7.0
Sublette	4,127	3,964	3,898	4.1	5.9	354	384	158	8.6	9.7	4.1
Sweetwater	22,150	22,324	21,908	- 0.8	1.1	1,970	1,826	1,487	8.9	8.2	6.8
Teton	11,877	8,002	12,166	48.4	- 2.4	448	576	420	3.8	7.2	3.5
Uinta	12,058	12,134	12,047	- 0.6	0.1	1,524	1,593	924	12.6	13.1	7.7
Washakie	5,098	4,985	5,295	2.1	- 3.9	542	501	353	10.7	10.1	6.7
Weston	3,288	3,374	3,596	- 2.5	- 8.6	378	337	264	11.5	10.0	7.4
United States									7.3	7.0	7.5
United States - Seasonally adjusted									7.1	7.3	7.3

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUN 1986[2]	MAY 1986[3]	JUN 1985	MAY 1986	JUN 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to JUN 1986	to JUN 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	204.7	202.4	216.1	1.1	- 5.3
Manufacturing	7.9	8.0	8.0	- 1.3	- 1.3
Durable Goods	3.8	3.8	4.0	0.0	- 5.0
Nondurable Goods	4.1	4.2	4.0	- 2.4	2.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	196.8	194.4	208.1	1.2	- 5.4
Mining	22.0	22.5	25.6	- 2.2	- 14.1
Contract Construction	16.0	15.2	17.8	5.3	- 10.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.6	14.7	15.0	- 0.7	- 2.7
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	2.4	0.0	25.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.3	5.4	5.9	- 1.9	- 10.2
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.4	6.7	- 1.6	- 6.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.1	43.7	46.8	0.9	- 5.8
Wholesale Trade	9.0	9.1	9.5	- 1.1	- 5.3
Retail Trade	35.1	34.6	37.3	1.5	- 5.9
Food Stores	4.8	5.0	5.4	- 4.0	- 11.1
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.9	5.7	6.4	3.5	- 7.8
Eating & Drinking Places	12.8	12.3	13.0	4.1	- 1.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.0	7.9	8.1	1.3	- 1.2
Services	35.6	34.5	39.9	3.2	- 10.8
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.9	6.8	6.2	1.5	11.3
Government	56.3	56.0	54.8	0.5	2.7
Federal Government	9.2	8.1	9.3	13.6	- 1.1
State & Local Government	47.1	47.9	45.5	- 1.7	3.5
State Government	13.9	14.1	13.4	- 1.4	3.7
Local Government	33.2	33.8	32.1	- 1.8	3.4

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUN 1986[2]	MAY 1986[3]	JUN 1985	MAY 1986	JUN 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to JUN 1986	to JUN 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.1	30.6	33.7	- 1.6	- 10.7
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	- 7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.8	29.3	32.3	- 1.7	- 10.8
Mining	3.4	3.6	4.5	- 5.6	- 24.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.2	3.4	4.1	- 5.9	- 22.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.3	0.2	0.4	50.0	- 25.0
Contract Construction	2.0	1.9	2.1	5.3	- 4.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	1.9	2.1	0.0	- 9.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.4	8.6	9.6	- 2.3	- 12.5
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.9	3.3	- 6.9	- 18.2
Retail Trade	5.6	5.7	6.3	- 1.8	- 11.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services	5.3	5.5	5.9	- 3.6	- 10.2
Government	6.2	6.3	6.4	- 1.6	- 3.1
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.1	30.8	31.1	1.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	30.0	29.7	30.0	1.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.5	3.4	3.3	2.9	6.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.6	6.7	7.0	- 1.5	- 5.7
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Retail Trade	5.9	6.0	6.2	- 1.7	- 4.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	- 1.9
Government	10.8	10.6	10.6	1.9	1.9
Federal Government	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.9	3.9
State & Local Government	8.2	7.9	8.0	3.8	2.5

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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Dick Sadler, Executive Director
Bill Davis, Chief, Research and Analysis
Gordon Wolford, Statistical Analyst
Mike Paris, Statistical Analyst
Velma Marks, R&C Assistant II

Please send comments, questions or address changes to Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Research and Analysis Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3643.

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